

REMARKS

Claim 1-29 are pending.

Claims 1-13 issued in U.S. Patent No. 5,878,745. Claims 14-29 have been added in this preliminary amendment. More specifically, claim 14 has been added to cover a laryngeal mask construction that includes a generally elliptical inflatable ring defining a distal end, the ring being adapted for sealed engagement to a laryngeal inlet of a patient; a backing plate defining an air inlet, the backing plate being sealed to the ring, the backing plate establishing a laryngeal-chamber side and a pharyngeal-chamber side of the construction; an inflatable back cushion disposed on the pharyngeal-chamber side, the back cushion when inflated contacting a pharyngeal wall of the patient and biasing the ring away from the pharyngeal wall; a tubular conduit defining a distal end, the distal end of the tubular conduit being disposed near the distal end of the ring for communication with an esophageal inlet of the patient, a first portion of the conduit being adhered to a portion of the back cushion, a second portion of the conduit being adhered to a portion of the backing plate; and one or more stiffening ribs, the ribs being disposed on a third portion of the tubular conduit, the third portion of the tubular conduit being disposed between the first and second portions of the tubular conduit. Claims 15-22 have been added to cover specific embodiments of the laryngeal mask construction of claim 14. Support for these new claims can be found in the specification, particularly at column 4, lines 50-55; column 5, line 63 through column 6, line 6; and in Figures 1, 2, and 8 of the issued patent.

Claim 23 has been added to cover a laryngeal mask construction that includes a generally elliptical inflatable ring defining a distal end, the ring being adapted for sealed engagement to a laryngeal inlet of a patient; a backing plate defining an air inlet, the backing plate being sealed to the ring, the backing plate establishing a laryngeal-chamber side and a pharyngeal-chamber side of the construction; an inflatable back cushion disposed on the pharyngeal-chamber side, the back cushion when inflated contacting a pharyngeal wall of the patient and biasing the ring away from the pharyngeal wall; a tubular conduit defining a distal end, the distal end of the tubular conduit being disposed near the distal end of the ring for communication with an esophageal inlet of the patient, a first portion of the conduit being adhered to a portion of the back cushion; and one or more stiffening ribs, the ribs being disposed on a second portion of the tubular

conduit. Support for this new claim can be found in the specification, for example, at column 5, lines 16-27 and Figure 4 of the issued patent.

Claim 24 has been added to cover a laryngeal mask construction, including: a generally elliptical inflatable ring defining a distal end, the ring being adapted for sealed engagement to a laryngeal inlet of a patient; a backing plate defining an air inlet, the backing plate being sealed to the ring, the backing plate establishing a laryngeal-chamber side and a pharyngeal-chamber side of the construction; an inflatable back cushion disposed on the pharyngeal-chamber side, the back cushion when inflated contacting a pharyngeal wall of the patient and biasing the ring away from the pharyngeal wall; a tubular conduit defining a distal end, the distal end of the tubular conduit being disposed near the distal end of the ring for communication with an esophageal inlet of the patient, a first portion of the conduit being adhered to a portion of the backing plate; and one or more stiffening ribs, the ribs being disposed on a second portion of the tubular conduit. Support for this new claim can be found in the specification, for example at column 5, lines 29-49 of the issued patent.

Claim 25 has been added to cover a laryngeal mask construction that includes a generally elliptical inflatable ring defining a distal end, the ring being adapted for sealed engagement to a laryngeal inlet of a patient; a backing plate defining an air inlet, the backing plate being sealed to the ring, the backing plate establishing a laryngeal-chamber side and a pharyngeal-chamber side of the construction; an inflatable back cushion disposed on the pharyngeal-chamber side, the back cushion when inflated contacting a pharyngeal wall of the patient and biasing the ring away from the pharyngeal wall; and a tubular conduit defining a distal end, the distal end of the tubular conduit being disposed near the distal end of the ring for communication with an esophageal inlet of the patient, a first portion of the conduit being adhered to a portion of the back cushion, a second portion of the conduit being adhered to a portion of the backing plate. Support for this new claim can be found in the specification, for example, at column 5, line 29 through column 6, line 6 of the issued patent.

Claim 26 has been added to cover a laryngeal mask construction that includes an airway tube; a gastric discharge tube; a generally elliptical inflatable ring defining a distal end, the ring being adapted for sealed engagement to a laryngeal inlet of a patient; a backing plate defining an air inlet, the air inlet being sealed to the airway tube, the backing plate being sealed to the ring, the backing plate establishing a laryngeal-chamber side and a pharyngeal-chamber side of the

construction; an inflatable back cushion disposed on the pharyngeal-chamber side, the back cushion when inflated contacting a pharyngeal wall of the patient and biasing the ring away from the pharyngeal wall; a tubular conduit defining a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end of the tubular conduit being sealed to the gastric-discharge tube, the distal end of the tubular conduit being disposed near the distal end of the ring for communication with an esophageal inlet of the patient, a first portion of the conduit being adhered to a portion of the back cushion, a second portion of the conduit being adhered to a portion of the backing plate; and one or more stiffening ribs, the ribs being disposed on a third portion of the tubular conduit, the third portion of the tubular conduit being disposed between the first and second portions of the tubular conduit. Support for this new claim can be found throughout the specification, particularly at column 4, lines 36-49 and in Figure 2 of the issued patent.

Claim 27 has been added to cover laryngeal mask construction for airway service to a patient's laryngeal inlet and for removal of gastric-discharge products from the patient's esophagus, where the construction includes a mask portion adapted for positioning inside of a patient near the patient's larynx; an airway tube extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the distal end of the airway tube being coupled to the mask portion, the airway tube defining a central axis, the central axis of the airway tube being disposed on one side of a sagittal plane when the mask portion is disposed inside the patient near the patient's larynx, the sagittal plane substantially bisecting the patient into a left half and a right half; and a gastric discharge tube extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the distal end of the discharge tube being coupled to the mask portion, the discharge tube defining a central axis, the central axis of the discharge tube being disposed on the other side of the sagittal plane when the mask portion is disposed inside the patient near the patient's larynx. Claims 28 and 29 have been added to cover specific embodiments of the laryngeal mask construction of claim 27. Support for these new claims can be found in the specification, for example, at column 7, line 7 through column 8, line 29; and in Figures 1, 2, and 11 of the issued patent.

The specification has been amended to reflect the corrections listed on the Certificate of Correction that issued in U.S. Patent No. 5,878,745.

Specifically, at column 7, line 17, the phrase "deflated-GLM" has been replaced with "deflated GLM"; at column 8, lines 10-11, the phrase "moulded backing plate 55 or body

member” has been replaced with “moulded backing plate or body member 55”; and at column 8, line 18, the phrase “or dome-shape” has been inserted after the word “bowl”.

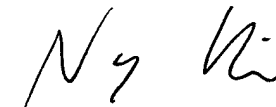
None of the above amendments to the specification or the claims adds any new matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicant encloses herewith a reissue application fee transmittal form indicating the fee to be paid for this Application.

No additional fees are believed to be due in connection with this communication. However, please apply any additional charges, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,
HALE AND DORR LLP



Nancy Chiu, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 43,545
Agent for Applicants

60 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
Tel: (617) 526-6000
Fax: (617) 526-5000

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